<center>REMARKS</center>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 18, 2009. Claims 34, 37, 40, 43 and 44 are pending in the application. Claims 34, 37 and 40 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 34, 37, 40, 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0044295 (Tanaka). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 34, 37 and 40 generally concern an image processing apparatus including plural card slots in which plural kinds of detachable cards are respectively inserted. Data is read out from memory cards inserted in the card slots. An accessible card slot is set as a slot which can be accessed to read data, while a card slot other than the accessible card slot is set as inaccessible. There is a check of whether a memory card is inserted in each of the plural card slots, in order.

According to one aspect of Claims 34, 37 and 40, in a case where a first memory card is inserted in a first card slot but a second memory card is not inserted in a second card slot and the first checked card slot has been set as inaccessible, the first checked card slot is reset as an accessible card slot. For one non-limiting example embodiment, see Figure 3.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to allow a user more convenient access to a memory card. Specifically, even if the first card slot has previously been set as inaccessible, the first card slot is reset accessible if (i) there is a card in the first card slot and (ii) there is not a card in the second card slot. Accordingly, it is

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ordinarily possible to restore access to the card slot which actually holds a card, without requiring a user to change between the card slots.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 34 is directed to Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 34 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes plural card slots in which plural kinds of detachable memory cards are respectively inserted. The apparatus includes a reading unit configured to read out data from memory cards inserted in the card slots. The apparatus also includes an access control unit configured to set a card slot as an accessible card slot which the reading unit can access and to set a card slot other than the accessible card slot as inaccessible. The apparatus further includes a checking unit configured to check whether a memory card is inserted in each of the plural card slots, in order. In addition, the apparatus includes a determining unit configured to determine which card slot has been set to have a priority relative to others of the plural card slots. In a case where a first memory card is inserted in a first checked card slot which is first checked by the checking unit, the access control unit sets the first checked card slot in which the first memory card is inserted as the accessible card slot if the determining unit determines that the first checked card slot has been set to have the priority, and sets a second card slot in which a second memory card is inserted as the accessible card slot if the determining unit determines that the first checked card slot has not been set to have the priority and the checking unit finds that the second memory card is inserted in the second card slot. The second card slot is a card slot other than the first checked card slot in which the first memory card is inserted. In a case where the first memory card is inserted in the first checked card slot but the second memory card is not inserted in the second card slot and the access control unit has set the first checked

card slot as inaccessible, the access control unit resets the first checked card slot in which the first memory card is inserted as the accessible card slot.

Independent Claims 37 and 40 are directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 34.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 34, 37 and 40, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of resetting a first card slot which has been set as inaccessible as an accessible card slot, in the case where a first memory card is inserted in the first card slot but a second memory card is not inserted in a second card slot.

As understood by Applicants, Tanaka is directed to a printer device including a plurality of memory card slots, and in which priority numbers can be assigned to the respective card slots. See Tanaka, Abstract.

However, Tanaka is not seen to disclose or suggest resetting a first card slot which has been set as inaccessible as an accessible card slot, in the case where a first memory card is inserted in the first card slot but a second memory card is not inserted in a second card slot.

Therefore, independent Claims 34, 37 and 40 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

claims, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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